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**Buna River: Its ecological and economical
values and its importance**

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Characteristics

- ❖ 44 kilometer long
- ❖ Sub-basin of the extended Drin River basin
- ❖ Delta area on the Adriatic Sea
- ❖ Contains important ecosystems
- ❖ Rich and diverse natural habitats

- ❖ Unique cultural identity
- ❖ Significant number of threatened species
- ❖ Breeding and wintering site
- ❖ Wintering waterbirds (24 000-30 000 individuals)
- ❖ Spawning and nursery areas



Values

- ❖ Economic resource
- ❖ Natural landscape of great value
- ❖ A complex living system
- ❖ A variety of natural and human-made coastal habitats
- ❖ Water retention and flood control
- ❖ Large water bodies and vast floodplain forest
- ❖ Estetic value

❖ A vital resource for:

- water supply
- agriculture and farming
- industry
- fishing
- recreation and tourism
- power generation and navigation

Pressure factors

- Solid waste and marine litter
- Uncontrolled or illegal fishing and hunting
- Intensive agriculture and forestry
- Extraction of minerals/mining
- Unsustainable tourism
- Increasing climate variability
- Construction of dams
- Wastewater
- Erratic land use and urban development
- Unsustainable use of water resources



Transboundary Impacts

❖ Loss of valuable ecosystems and biodiversity

❖ Increasing health risks

❖ Salinisation and salt water intrusion

❖ Deforestation

❖ Accelerated soil erosion

❖ Pollution of surface and ground waters

❖ More frequent and severe floods



The most important problems

- ❖ The low level of public awareness about environmental issues
- ❖ Several hydroelectric plants built on the River Drin during 30-40 years
- ❖ Decrease of biodiversity
- ❖ The expansion of tourism areas and related infrastructure ↔ increasing disturbance from visitors, and boat and car traffic (including off-road)
- ❖ Development of urban settlements, roads, agriculture, tourism, and industry + increased abstraction of water
- ❖ Negative impacts on the population of the native fish species

Wetland Birds

This area is anesting site also for bird species of European conservation concern, such as:

❖ The Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

❖ The European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)

❖ The European Scops Owl (*Otus scops*)

❖ The Levant Sparrow Hawk (*Accipiter brevipes*)

Threatened Species

❖ The loose-flowered Orchid (*Nacampthis laxiflora*)

❖ The thick shelled river mussel (*Unio crassus*)

❖ The large copper butterfly (*Lycaena dispar*)

❖ The European sea sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*)

Threatened Species



❖ The Adriatic trout (*Salmo obtusirostris*)



❖ The European otter (*Lutra lutra*)



❖ The European tree frog (*Hyla arborea*)



❖ The white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*)



Everyone of us can make changes in the way we live our lifes



and become part of the solution